

March 11, 2004

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Town of Windsor Wastewater Treatment Facility – Pond 1 Expansion Project, Windsor (WDID No. 1B04014WNSO) Sonoma County

On February 19, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Justin Witt of Brelje and Race Consulting Civil Engineers, on behalf of the Town of Windsor (Town), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility – Pond 1 Expansion Project, Windsor, Sonoma County. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with seasonal wetland habitat near Windsor Creek, in the Mark West Creek Hydrologic Unit No. 114.23.

The proposed project is located within the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), westerly of Pond 1, located at 8400 Windsor Road, Windsor, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to increase the Town's high flow wastewater storage capacity to meet the anticipated demands on the wastewater treatment facility as the Town approaches build-out.

The Applicant proposes to increase the storage capacity of the existing high flow storage Ponds 1 and 2 by removing the common embankment separating the two ponds, raising the outer embankments by up to eight feet, and expanding the footprint of the proposed combined pond to the north and west. Ponds 1 and 2 currently have a combined storage capacity of approximately 17.6 million gallons. The proposed project will increase the available storage capacity to approximately 37.3 million gallons. The Town will include tree planting along the northern toe of the embankment to provide visual screening. Other project components include modifications to an existing pump station, piping and appurtenances impacted by pond modifications. The Pond 1 layout is intended to maximize the pond storage capacity within the limits of available land defined by the existing WWTF to the south, Town corporation yard to the west, and Town property boundaries to the north (bounded by small residential development) and east (bounded by Windsor Creek). The northeastern, east and south sides of the pond's footprint will not be expanded – the dike will be raised by filling inward from the existing edge of the pond. The pond's footprint will be expanded to the northwest and west to provide the additional storage capacity.

Charles Patterson, Plant Ecologist, has performed a wetland delineation of the project area and concluded that the project site contains approximately 0.15 acres of jurisdictional wetland that will be permanently filled and that there are no associated adjacent wetlands or waters of the state that would be impacted by the project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has not yet verified the delineation.

Compensatory mitigation for this project is anticipated to be attained through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits at an approved mitigation bank on the Santa Rosa Plain and possible additional mitigations that may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Regional Water Board. Proof of wetland mitigation credit purchases from an approved wetland mitigation bank has not been submitted to date and is pending at this time.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures will include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction. Specifically, the project will preserve existing vegetation where possible, use a stabilized construction access way, and utilize silt fences and straw bale barriers to prevent offsite erosion. A Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan will be prepared for the project.

The Town of Windsor, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project is expected to begin the 30-day public review period in March 2004 and be adopted by the Town Council in April 2004.

The proposed project is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2004 and end in October or November 2004. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Cathleen Goodwin at (707) 576-2687, or at goodc@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.